

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Hancock Farm Inventory Number: ~~134003~~ CH-826  
10450 Hancock Farm Place  
 Address: ~~124 H~~ Springhill-Newtown Road, Charles County - in the vicinity of La Plata 20646

Owner: Hancock, Chester W et al

Tax Parcel Number: 32Tax Map Number: 44Project MD 301

Agency State Highway Administration (SHA)

Site visit by SHA Staff: X no    yes      Name:                      Date:                     

Eligibility recommended    Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria       A      B      C      D                      Considerations:      A      B      C      D      E      F      G     X  None

Is property located within a historic district?: X no \_\_\_ yes Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_

Is district listed?: X no    yes

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files

## Description of Property and Eligibility Determination (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

Hancock Farm, located at 12411 Springhill-Newtown Road, is a functioning farm complex. The site comprises a tenant house, several outbuildings, and a main house. The tenant dwelling, located near Springhill-Newtown Road, is a modified two-story I-house. The house is L-shaped in plan with a standing seam metal cross gable roof. A one-story, single-bay wing extends from the southeast elevation. The wing is covered by a standing seam metal, side gable roof. The side passage house sits on a concrete block foundation. Several barns are located to the east of the tenant house, including a two-story front gambrel roof barn, a two-story front gable roof barn, and a two-story front gambrel roof barn with a shed roof extension. The main dwelling sits to the northeast of the barns. The one-and-one-half-story, wood frame house is three bays wide. The house is clad with German siding and has a front gable roof. The one-story, three-bay wide porch has a half-hipped roof supported by turned wood posts. The door is slightly off-center and is flanked by a single 9/6, double-hung sash windows.

Most inhabitants of Charles County were engaged in farming at the time of the first settlement. The barn was the principle building erected on a farm which provided space for cows, horses, equipment, and hay, straw or tobacco

Prepared by EHT Traceries, Inc.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended           

**Eligibility not recommended**

**Criteria:**   A     B     C     D        **Consideration**   A     B     C     D   ~~E~~   F     G   None

**Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Reviewer, NR Program

**Date**

storage. Throughout the 19th century, barns increased in size or were newly built to include space for smaller animals, such as poultry and pigs, and as a place for the threshing and storage of grain. Their size also increased during the 19th century as the introduction of improved equipment led to more efficient and profitable operations, and, consequently, to increased need for storage facilities. Typically, livestock was housed on the lower level, while the upper level was reserved for the storage of hay and straw, and the threshing and storage of feed grains.

The gambrel roof barn increased in popularity in the last quarter of the 19th century. The gambrel roof was easily used with lumber-truss construction, which was developed in the third quarter of the 19th century. Gambrel roofs were also added to barns employing traditional timber bent construction. The advantage of the gambrel roof was the increase in loft capacity. This increase in capacity made barns more efficient for hay storage. As farm sizes increased and more animals needed hay, the increased storage capacity became more desirable.

Charles County's late 19th- and early 20th-century history is dominated by industrial and urban development. The greatest impact upon community growth came from the railroad. The completion of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad's (B&P) mainline from Bowie in Prince George's County to Pope's Creek in Charles County in 1872 prompted local entrepreneurs to establish stores and other commercial facilities near the railroad stations. The B&P Railroad also made inland farms accessible, thus, increasing their value and revitalizing the practice of agriculture in Southern Maryland. La Plata station still stands at the intersection of the rail line with Charles Street.

As La Plata grew, Charles County citizens lobbied to have the county seat moved from Port Tobacco to La Plata. La Plata became the county seat of Charles County's government in 1895 and a new courthouse was erected in 1896.

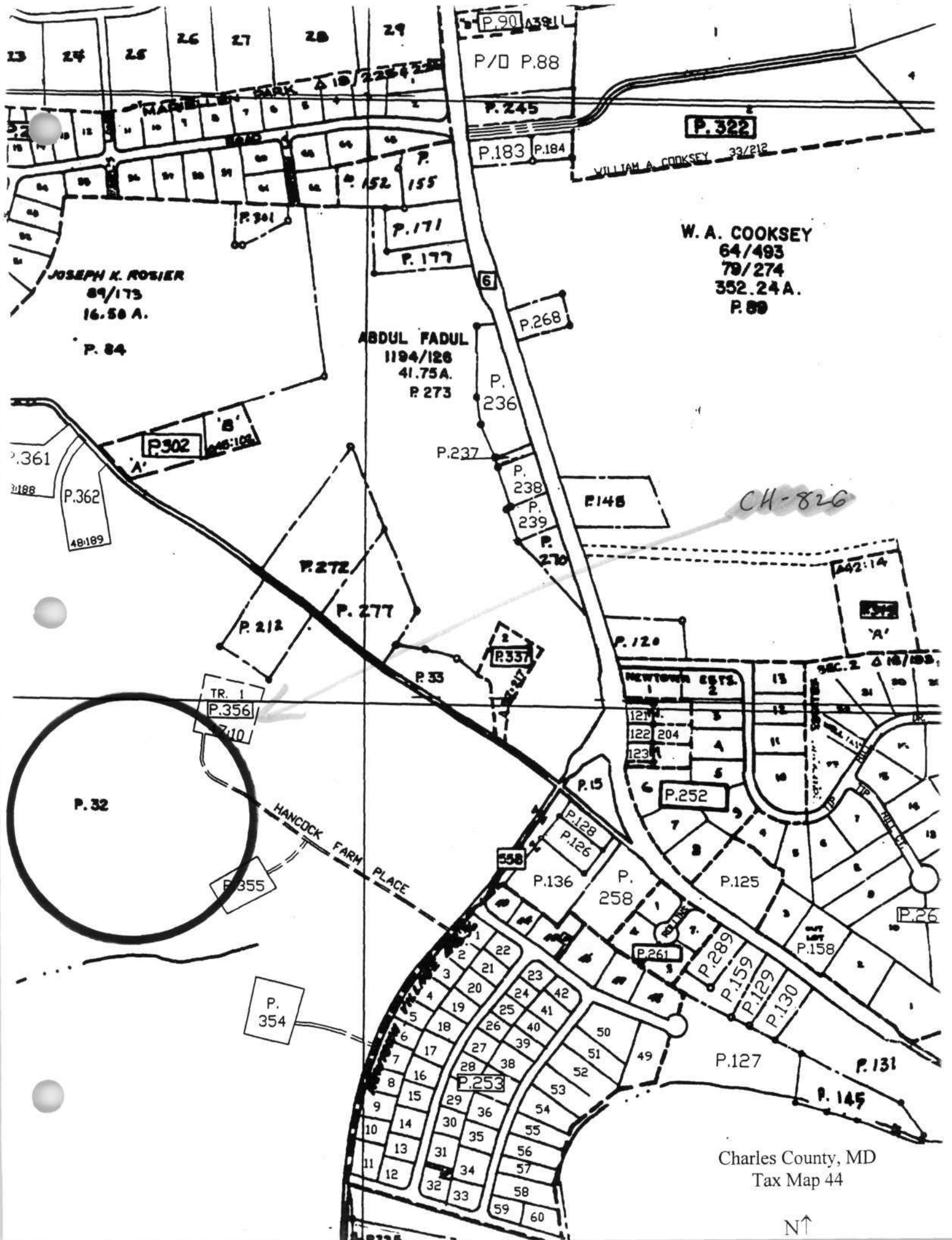
Towards the end of the first quarter of the 20th century, road improvements and developments also contributed to Charles County's community evolution. In particular, the Robert Crain Highway, later expanded as part of U.S. 301, attracted new development to older communities along its corridor. Crain Highway brought commercial development on La Plata's west side and contributed to the Charles County seat's overall growth in the 1920s and 1930s.

Built circa 1880-1950, the vernacular tenant house, outbuildings, and vernacular main house with Colonial Revival-style influences are not eligible for the National Register. While this farm complex is an earlier example of the residential and agricultural development surrounding La Plata, these resources lack significance related to events,

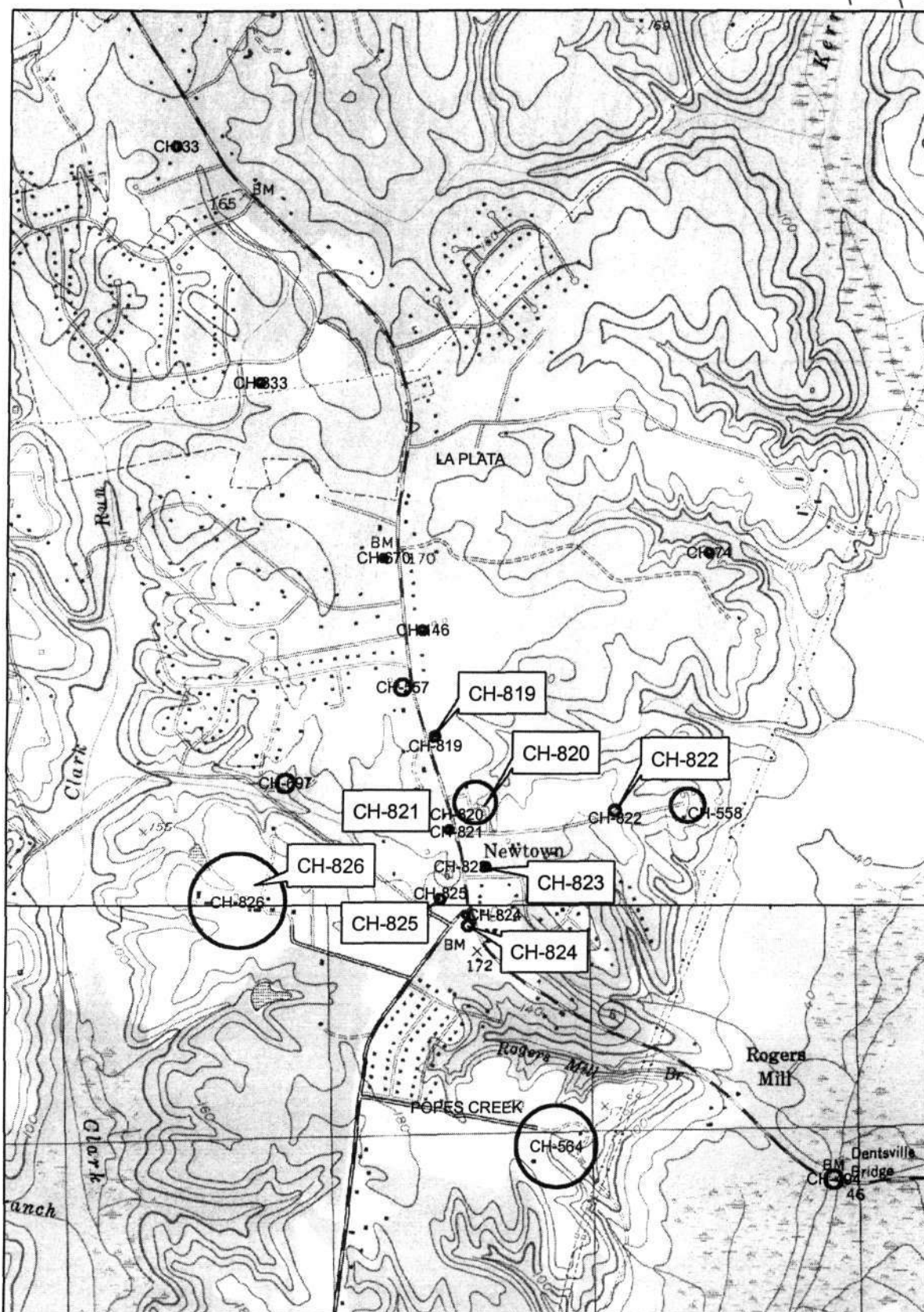
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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW									
Eligibility recommended					Eligibility not recommended				
Criteria:	A	B	C	D	Consideration	A	B	C	D E F G None
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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services					Date				
Reviewer, NR Program					Date				

persons, or architecture. Criterion D, information potential, was not assessed for this study.



## Quads







~~#151003~~ CH-826

Hancock Farm, ~~1244~~ Springhill-Newtown Road  
Charles County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

View of south elevation  
1 of 3





~~J-3-0003~~ CH-826

Hancock Farm, ~~1244~~ Springhill-Newtown Road

Charles County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

view looking south  
2 of 3



~~CH-826~~ CH-826

Hancock Farm, ~~12411~~ Springhill - Newtown Road

Charles County, MD

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June 1999

MD SHPO

View looking North

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